

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

June 2014

## Mars Science News

### **Draft Analysis by the Special Regions SAG available for community feedback**

The draft analysis prepared by the Special Regions Science Analysis Group (SAG) was presented at the 29th MEPAG meeting (held May 13-14). This SAG committee has been working for approximately the last 5 months to update our technical understanding of when and where planetary protection special regions might occur on Mars, and has produced a draft report for community review, discussion, and feedback. A set of PPT-formatted files summarizing their preliminary findings has now been posted on the MEPAG website at the following location: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m29> (under meeting #29, scroll down to SR-SAG2). The SAG committee would welcome any feedback on this interim material before it proceeds to preparation of a text-formatted final report. Please email feedback to: Dave Beaty ([david.w.beaty@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:david.w.beaty@jpl.nasa.gov)); or John Rummel ([rummelj@ecu.edu](mailto:rummelj@ecu.edu)); or Melissa Jones ([Melissa.A.Jones@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Melissa.A.Jones@jpl.nasa.gov)).

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### **3rd Announcement posted for the Eighth International Conference on Mars**

July 14-18 at Caltech, Pasadena, CA

We invite all Mars scientists to attend and help summarize our current understanding of Mars, consolidate our primary paradigms for martian processes and history, and refocus the primary scientific questions that remain in front of us. The 3rd announcement, including the final program, will be posted on May 30th at [www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/). **Online registration is open through June 13th** and is strongly encouraged to assist with planning. On-site registration will also be available. There is no registration fee.

Additionally, we have made special arrangements for a large block of discounted rooms at a hotel in the Old Pasadena area, the [Westin Pasadena](#). The group rate is \$133/night + taxes, and this is valid until June 13, 2014, or until the block is sold out. To reserve a room in this block, visit <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/JPL>.

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### **Special Mars Session at GSA meeting**

*MicroMars to MegaMars: Integration of Surface and Orbital Investigations*

*A special session at the Geological Society of America Meeting; October 19-22, Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Whereas on Earth the study of geology evolved from one of field work to incorporation of remote sensing, that of Mars is the reverse, with orbital-based data only complemented by surface investigations from rovers in the last 10+ years. The merging of these datasets has yielded profound new understandings of the geologic history and modern processes on Mars. This session seeks abstracts that incorporate data from surface (MSL, MER, etc.) and orbital (MRO, MEX, Odyssey, etc.) missions that have increased our understanding of Martian geology. Session organizers: Nathan Bridges ([nathan.bridges@jhuapl.edu](mailto:nathan.bridges@jhuapl.edu)), Alfred McEwen ([mcewen@lpl.arizona.edu](mailto:mcewen@lpl.arizona.edu)), and David Rubin ([geology.dr@gmail.com](mailto:geology.dr@gmail.com)). **Abstracts are due July 29, 2014.**

## Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
June 1, 2014	<b>ISC 2014 Sedimentology at the Crossroads of New Frontiers</b> Early registration deadline
June 13, 2014	<b>8th International Conference on Mars</b> Online registration deadline (no-fee; on-site available)
June 30, 2014	<b>Origins 2014</b> Registration deadline (on-site available)
July 25, 2014	<b>5th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> Abstract deadline
July 28, 2014	<b>International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014)</b> Abstract deadline
July 29, 2014	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> Abstract deadline
August 15, 2014	<b>EANA 2014 - The 14th European Astrobiology Conference</b> Abstract and Early Registration deadline

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

## Second Quarter, 2014

	June 16-21, 2014 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>48th ESLAB Symposium: New Insights to Volcanism Across the Solar System</b> <a href="http://congrexprojects.com/2014-events/48-ESLAB/">http://congrexprojects.com/2014-events/48-ESLAB/</a>
	June 16-20, 2014 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Annual Planetary Science Summer School, Session I</b> <a href="http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov">http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov</a>

## Third Quarter, 2014

	July 6-11, 2014 Nara, JAPAN	<b>ORIGINS 2014</b> <a href="http://www.origin-life.gr.jp/origins2014/index.html">http://www.origin-life.gr.jp/origins2014/index.html</a>
	July 7-11, 2014 London, UK	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Alfven Conference: Plasma interaction with solar system objects: anticipating Rosetta, Maven and Mars Orbiter Mission</b> <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/mssl/planetary-science/alfven-conference">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/mssl/planetary-science/alfven-conference</a>
	July 14-18, 2014 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Eighth International Conference on Mars</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/</a>
	July 14-18, 2014 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Annual Planetary Science Summer School, Session II</b> <a href="http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov">http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov</a>
	July 21-23, 2014 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute Exploration Science Forum</b> <a href="http://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/NESF2014/">http://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/NESF2014/</a>
	July 21-25, 2014 Lanzhou, CHINA	<b>Eighth International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR VIII)</b> <a href="http://www.2014icar8.com">http://www.2014icar8.com</a> , Special session - Extra-terrestrial Aeolian research
	August 2-10, 2014 Moscow, RUSSIA	<b>40th COSPAR 2014 and Associated Events</b> <a href="http://www.cospas-assembly.org/">http://www.cospas-assembly.org/</a>
	August 6-8, 2014 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>5th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm">http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm</a>
	August 11-15, 2014 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Annual Planetary Science Summer School, Session III</b> <a href="http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov">http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov</a>

### Third Quarter, 2014

	August 18-22, 2014 Geneva, SWITZERLAND	<b>ISC 2014 Sedimentology at the Crossroads of New Frontiers</b> <a href="http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/isc">http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/isc</a> Session 038 - Extraterrestrial Sedimentology
	September 7-12, 2014 Centro de Congressos do Estoril, Cascais, PORTUGAL	<b>European Planetary Science Congress</b> <a href="http://www.epsc2014.eu/">http://www.epsc2014.eu/</a>
<b>New!</b>	September 8-12, 2014 Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL	<b>First Astrobiology School at the Observatorio Nacional</b> <a href="http://www.on.br/coaa/astrobion2014/indexeng.html">http://www.on.br/coaa/astrobion2014/indexeng.html</a>
	September 21, 2014	<b>MAVEN Mars Orbit Insertion (MOI)</b>
	September 24, 2014	<b>The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Mars Orbit Insertion</b>

### Fourth Quarter, 2014

	October 13-16, 2014 Edinburgh, SCOTLAND	<b>EANA 2014 - The 14th European Astrobiology Conference</b> <a href="http://www.astrobiology.ac.uk/eana2014/">http://www.astrobiology.ac.uk/eana2014/</a>
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2014/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2014/</a> Special Session - MicroMars to MegaMars: Integration of Surface and Orbital Investigations
	October 19, 2014	<b>Comet Siding Spring closest approach to Mars</b>
	October 27-29, 2014 St. Louis, MS, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2014, Engineering for Extreme Environments</b> <a href="http://earthspaceconf2014.mst.edu/">http://earthspaceconf2014.mst.edu/</a>
<b>New!</b>	November 3-5, 2014 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/</a>
	November 4-7, 2014 Greenbelt, MD, USA	<b>2nd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014)</b> <a href="http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM/">http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM/</a>
	November 9-14, 2014 Tucson, AZ, USA	<b>46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014)</b> <a href="http://aas.org/meetings/dps46">http://aas.org/meetings/dps46</a>
	December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>

### 2015

	March 2015	<b>46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>

## 2016

	January 7, 2016	<b>20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens</b>
	March 8, 2016	<b>20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens</b>
	September 20, 2016	<b>Insight Arrival at Mars</b>
	October 16, 2016	<b>ExoMars Arrival at Mars</b>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY32	MY33	MY34
<b>Start of Northern Spring / L<sub>s</sub> 0</b>	7/31/2013	6/18/2015	5/05/2017
<b>Start of Northern Summer / L<sub>s</sub> 90</b>	2/15/2014	1/03/2016	11/20/2017
<b>Start of Northern Autumn / L<sub>s</sub> 180</b>	8/17/2014	7/04/2016	5/22/2018
<b>Start of Northern Winter / L<sub>s</sub> 270</b>	1/11/2015	11/28/2016	10/16/2018

## Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings:

Good Friday	4/18/2014	4/3/2015	4/6/2016	4/14/2017
Rosh Hashanah	9/25/2014	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017
Yom Kippur	10/4/2014	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017

(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)

Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2014	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2014	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017
Christmas Day	12/25/2014	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017

## Editors

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to:

Carla de la Paz at [paz@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:paz@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-354-3160.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>